



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES  
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## News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### ***DMR Wins National Award***

BILOXI, Miss. – The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (DMR) received an Award of Excellence for the “Preserving and Enjoying Mississippi’s Coastal Resources” 2005 Marine Information Calendar at the annual National Association of Government Communicators Communications School held recently in Baltimore, Maryland.

The DMR is one of about 80 government agencies in the United States to earn the prestigious Blue Pencil Award at this year’s annual NAGC Blue Pencil/Gold Screen Awards banquet, which recognizes excellence in written, filmed, audio/videotaped, published and photographed government information products.

More than 500 entries were submitted in the annual competition. Judging was done across the nation by both governmental and nongovernmental information professionals who volunteer their time to judge and give peer feedback on entries. Entries were judged on production, writing, editorial content, layout and design, and quality and creativity. Entries were also reviewed to determine that they achieved the purpose for which they were produced, that they served the needs of their target audiences and that they represented a cost-effective use of financial and other resources.

“It is an honor to be recognized by the National Association of Government Communicators,” said DMR Public Relations Director Lauren Thompson. “We gratefully acknowledge our partnership with the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium who provided the tide data for the calendar. The Marine Information Calendar was developed to serve as both an educational outreach to the schools—through the calendar art contest—to encourage environmental stewardship and as a useful tool for fishermen, providing practical information that they can use, such as tide data, sunrise/sunset times, moon phases, and saltwater fish size and possession limits. The DMR looks forward to continuing to provide educational products like this to the community.”

The National Association of Government Communicators is a national, nonprofit professional network of federal, state, and local government employees who disseminate information within and outside government. Its members are guided by a professional code of ethics, which demands complete and timely communication between government and the people it serves.

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is dedicated to enhancing, protecting and conserving marine interests of the State by managing all marine life, public trust wetlands, adjacent uplands and waterfront areas to provide for the optimal commercial, recreational, educational and economic uses of these resources consistent with environmental concerns and social changes. Visit the DMR online at [www.dmr.state.ms.us](http://www.dmr.state.ms.us)

**PHOTO CREDIT: PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES**

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**PHOTO CUTLINE:** From left, DMR Public Relations Representative Susan Perkins, DMR Public Relations Director Lauren Thompson and DMR Public Relations Representative Marti Schuman display the award they received recently from the National Association of Government Communicators for the “Preserving and Enjoying Mississippi’s Coastal Resources” DMR 2005 Marine Information Calendar. Winners of the prestigious Blue Pencil Award were announced at the annual National Association of Government Communicators Communications School held recently in Baltimore, Maryland.



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